

Abstract of the Disclosure

A microscopic image capture apparatus extracts an area including a sample image from an image
5 obtained by capturing the entire sample, sets a plurality of horizontal positions for acquisition of a height coordinate Z from the extracted sample image area, reads a height coordinate which is a focal point position at the set horizontal position,
10 computes an adjusted position of a focal point in an arbitrary position in the sample image area using the read height coordinate data, and transfers the height of a sample to the adjusted focal position as computed above when the sample is
15 horizontally traveled. The microscopic image capture apparatus extracts an area including a sample image from an image obtained by capturing the entire sample, starts an operation of detecting an autofocus position while a sample image is
20 horizontally traveled when the horizontal travel is directed to a position including a sample image, and stops the operation of detecting an autofocus position when horizontal travel is directed to a position including no sample image.